

RUSSIANS CONCEDE MISSILE NET FLAW

Two Military Chiefs Dispute a General's Description of Invulnerable Defenses

By **RAYMOND H. ANDERSON**
Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Feb. 22—Two Soviet military leaders conceded tonight that antimissile defense systems could not prevent all enemy rockets from reaching their targets.

The warnings were voiced by Marshal Andrei A. Grechko, First Deputy Defense Minister who is now acting as defense chief, and Marshal Vasily I. Chuikov, head of the Soviet civil defense program.

Their remarks, made on the eve of Soviet Armed Forces Day, contradicted an assertion by Gen. Pavel A. Kurochkin, head of the Frunze Military Academy. He said at a news conference two days ago that no enemy missiles could penetrate Soviet defenses around Moscow.

[In Washington, the Defense Department acknowledged that there was a difference of opinion within the Administration on the extent of the Soviet Union's deployment of a missile defense. It stressed, however, that the United States must assume that the Russians had already started to deploy a nationwide system or would soon do so.]

Contradicted today was this assertion by General Kurochkin:

"If enemy missiles fly, they

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will not arrive in Moscow."

Marshal Grechko said that the Soviet Union's defenses would destroy only "many kinds of rockets."

The marshal's remarks were in an article in Izvestia, the Soviet Government newspaper, commemorating the 49th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet armed forces.

Marshal Chuikov, speaking on television, praised the quality of Soviet weapons but called for an intensification of civil defense measures. He explained:

"Unfortunately, there are no means yet that would guarantee the complete security of our cities and most important objectives from the blows of the enemy's weapons of mass destruction."

The acknowledgment that there was no complete defense against enemy missiles recalled similar remarks made last year by Marshal Rodion Y. Malinovsky, the Defense Minister, who has been ailing. The statements today stirred special interest, however, because of recent appeals by the United States for a moratorium on the installation of costly antimissile defense networks.

Soviet Rockets Acclaimed

President Johnson, in his State of the Union Address Jan. 10, expressed concern that a Soviet deployment of antimissile defenses would compel the United States to take tougher steps and lead to a new arms race.

It is estimated that a nationwide antimissile system in the United States would cost \$10-billion.

In the Izvestia article, Marshal Grechko acclaimed advances in Soviet missile development, including the perfection of rockets that can be moved to new sites quickly to elude detection from the air.

Speaking of air defenses, the marshal said:

"Modern means of anti-aircraft defense assure the destruction of any aircraft and many kinds of rockets."

The Soviet Union has begun

the installation of a limited antimissile defense system around Moscow, but its intentions about proceeding with a broader program are obscured in secrecy and, according to some Western sources, in decision.

During his recent visit to Britain, Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin made a strong defense of antimissile systems as morally superior to offensive weapons.

A few days later, however, Pravda, the Soviet Communist party paper, interpreted the Premier's remark in a way that suggested Moscow was still open to negotiations for a moratorium on deploying antimissile systems.

Clarification by Pentagon

By **WILLIAM BEECHER**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22 — The Defense Department conceded today that there was a basic difference of opinion within the Johnson Administration on the extent of the Soviet deployment of a missile defense.

Following a number of published reports that the Joint Chiefs of Staff disagreed with the Administration's public statements on the subject, the Pentagon put out a "clarifying" statement.

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, the statement said, "believes there is a great deal of uncertainty about the character, extent and rate of deployment" of a series of defensive installations being employed in the Soviet Union.

Previously, President Johnson and Mr. McNamara said a missile defense was known to be installed only around Moscow.

Mr. McNamara told Congress earlier this month that "the weight of evidence at this time suggests" that a second defensive system, being deployed elsewhere in the Soviet Union, "is not intended primarily for antiballistic missile defense."